BOOK REVIEW

PERRY K. PESKIN. 2006. **The Search for Lost Habitats: 30 Years of Exploring for Rare and Endangered Plants—Book 1.** (ISBN 1-933197-16-1, pbk.). Orange Frazier Press, P.O. Box 214, Wilmington, Ohio 45177, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.orangefrazer.com, 1-800-852-9332, Customer Service Department, Orange Frazer Press; or The Three-Hour Press Company, 3559 Strathavon Road, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122, U.S.A.). \$34.95, 288 pp., numerous color images and photographs, 8 7/8" × 8".

Want to go exploring in captivating new habitats? Want to set out on a fantastic search for rare and unusual plants? Want to enjoy a great nature walk with a knowledgeable guide? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you will enjoy the new book by Perry Peskin, *The Search for Lost Habitats:* 30 Years of Exploring for Rare and Endangered Plants—Book 1. Peskin has provided a great outdoor field adventure that you can enjoy without getting muddy or devoured by insects!

Author Peskin has been engaged in exploring the natural world since 1975. The Search for Lost Habitats is his first book sharing his curiosity of nature and his intriguing searches for rare and exotic plants in both the Midwest and Canada. The book consists of fifteen standalone essays on various topics. Some of the essays are explorations of specific locations such as the Lynx prairie, the area originally explored by Ohio botanist/naturalist Lucy Braun. There are also chapters that discuss specific habitats such as Ohio's so-called "invisible prairies", while the chapter "Pennsylvanian nature trail" explores the historical geology of an area. A few chapters provide information on oddities such as the parasitic plant dodder or salt-loving halophytic plants. And other chapters are focused on plant families like orchids and the folks who love them or specific rare species of mallows and the search to discover them.

The author has written *The Search for Lost Habitats* to be very accessible to most readers. Some basic botanical knowledge would be helpful, but the book is unassuming and readable by any interested person. The author has provided helpful information within the text of the current Endangered Species Act regarding status of those species discussed. Peskin has also included many colorful photographs of plants integrated into the various essays. Additional photographs of habitats, interesting plants, and animals in various regions of the Midwest and Great Lakes regions are in Appendix A. Appendix B includes common plant names, scientific epithets, and U.S. status under the Endangered Species Act. A bibliography and an index complete the text. Although habitat and specific locations are discussed, the author has wisely altered names and locations so as not to allow potential plant thieves ready access to rarities.

The Search for Lost Habitats is thoroughly enjoyable and a boon to nature lovers. As a former resident of southern Ohio and a graduate of The Ohio State University, this book brought back very fond memories of both childhood hikes and college field trips—one of which was to the Lakeside Daisy State Nature Preserve, where I saw the unique limestone habitat these plants inhabit (Lakeside daisies are discussed in Essay 4). Peskin draws you into his book and gives you enough information using both text and color photos to visualize and experience the location or plant discussed. I look forward to Book Two of the series.—Lee Luckeydoo, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 500 East 4th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.